(f) Does not arise.

(g) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bangalore has been approved by the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) for carrying out major inspection of boeing 737 aircraft. HAL, Kanpur is also planning to undertake such major maintenance of aircraft in the fleet of air taxi operators.

Hub and spoke scheme formulated by Air India.

796. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any approval to the hub and spoke scheme formulated by Air India in collaboration with Vayudoot;

(b) whether any special training has been imparted to the crew ground staff of Air India and Vayudoot in this record;

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) by when Government propose to implement the above scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir, Such commercial arrangements do not require Government approval.

(b) and (c) Air India has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 9 lakhs (Approx.) for training Vayudoot personnel. Vayudoot has incurred expenditure on TA|DA of its staff.

(d) No definite date can be indicated at this preliminary stage.

AIR Taxi operating on regular schedule Air services

797. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to several advertisements in the leading news-papers issued by air taxi operators indicating that they are operating regular scheduled air services to destinations such as Bombay-Calicut-Bombay, Bombay-Mangalore-Bombay, Bombay-Cochin-Bombay, Bombay-Ahmedabad-Bombay, Bombay-Delhi-Bombay;

(b) if so, whether under the provisions of Air Corporations Act, 1953 such regular and scheduled air services are allowed;

(c) whether Government propose to clarify that these air taxi operators are prohibited from operating scheduled air services within India in accordance with the provisions contained in the Air Corporations Act; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the existing Air Taxi Guidelines (AIC 24 of 1990) operation of Air Taxi Service is on non scheduled charter basis only. The Air Taxi operators have been asked to follow the Air Taxi Guidelines strictly and not to publish any schedule of operations.

Air Safety Violations

798. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of air safety violations which were taken note of by the DGCA in the case of Air India,